

Bay of Plenty DEERSTALKERS



October 2018

Monthly Newsletter of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, Bay of Plenty Branch

www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (BOP Branch) Inc. PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142 Club Rooms, R617 SH 29, between Barkes Corner & Takitimu Drive

Branch Secretary: info@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Club Officers: Rod Mills 541 3949 Patron

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Secretary Dave Bragg 576 0204 davonne09@xtra.co.nz

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Assistant Treasurer Richard McEwen 021-138 2483 Range Manager Grant Hammond 021 137 3831

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Stan Lowe 07 868 4515 Les Nelson 544 2442 Keith Theobald 578 1195 Chris Munro 578 1180

Grant Hammond 021 137 3831 Doug Williams Tim Taylor 027 668 9904

Kevin Long

Bob Tatton 571 8442 Gerry Carey 022-3979560

Membership Secretary Tim Taylor 027 668 9904 **HUNTS Co-ordinators** Keith Theobald 578 1195

Doug Williams 07-5443065 Bob Tatton 571 8442

Keith Theobald Clubrooms Custodian 578 1195

Newsletter Editor Claire Maisey 021 175 2114

Email claire71@gmail.com

Refreshments Officer Reuben Hayward

> Search & Rescue **Craig Winters** 544 7949

Paul Adamson 543 0950 Arthur Hudson 027-6007382

Branch Hunts Committee:

Stan Lowe 07 868 4515 Reuben Hayward

Honorary Solicitor Luke at HOBEC Lawyers

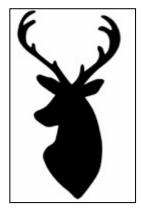
Accountant Cam Graham Grants Coordinator Peter Setz Auditor Ken Collings

Club Night: First Tuesday of the month 7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm if you want to come early for a chat!)

Committee Meeting: Second Tuesday of the month All correspondence to be addressed to PO Box 3111, Greerton

Deadlines for newsletter contributions is the 20th of the month.

Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the branch, its executive committee or the national association.



PRESIDENTS REPORT - OCTOBER 2018

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

The National Executive have kicked off the regional meetings which they have been planning for some time with our area meeting in Rotorua on the 8th September. The meeting was attended by representatives from Taupo, Hamilton, Bay of Plenty and Rotorua branches with the national president Trevor Chappell also present. It was a great opportunity to discuss matters in an informal meeting without time constraints as is quite often the case at

National Conference. These regional meetings will be held 3 or 4 times a year and I believe we will get some value from them.

I have just completed a submission to DOC on behalf of the branch in relation to an application by the Manaaki Group Holdings. Their application was for exclusive use of an area of land to construct buildings to operate tourism venture within the boundary of the Whirinaki Te Pua-A-Tane conservation area. We apposed this application for exclusive use as it is public land and contrary to the park's objectives in their plan. We also believe the groups long term plans once the lodge is constructed will be in direct conflict with hunters, tramper's and other park users.

Most of you will already be aware via social media of the intention by DOC to cull large numbers of tahr in the coming spring. For those that have not read the DOC report and NZDA's response, we will include those reports in this newsletter.

We have planned to hold a sight-in fun shoot at the range prior to the tahr hunt. This shoot will be on the Sunday 14th October. Start time is 10.00am with a sausage sizzle for lunch. Great opportunity to sight-in your rifle and if you want to shoot in the fun shoot at animal targets you will need 10 rounds. No charge for the day.

This month's club night will be one not to miss as we have Daryl Crimp (Crimpy) as our guest speaker. Most of you will have read some of Daryl's articles in hunting magazines and his books. We will be putting on a supper at the end of Daryl's talk so please come along and enjoy the evening and take opportunity to meet Crimpy.

That's it for this month see you at the club night. Clyde

Don't forget this month's Club Night with Crimpy And Fun shoot at the range on Sunday 14th October.

COVER PHOTO - From this year's competition photos.

If you have a photo you would like to see on the cover please send it through to claire71@gmail.com

NZDA CALENDAR 2018

September	
Tuesday, 4 th September, 7.30 pm	Club Night at NZDA Clubrooms Joel from Game Gear is our guest speaker and he will be presenting a range of videos that they've been recording of both deer and pig hunting which includes a rafting trip down the Motu river in this years roar.
Sunday, 9 th September	BOP Service Rifle Club Day
Tuesday, 11 th September, 7.30 pm	Committee Night at NZDA Clubrooms
16 th – 17 th September	Te Tuhi Track (Kaimais) Target Species: Red (level 3)
	Trip organiser: Tim Taylor
Sunday, 30 th September	NZDA Range Open Day at TECT Park Range

October	
Tuesday, 2 nd October, 7.30 pm	Club Night at NZDA Clubrooms
	Guest speaker - Daryl Crimp (Crimpy)
	Supper afterwards.
Saturday, 13 th October	BOP Service Rifle Club Day
Sunday, 14 th October	Fun Club Shoot at the TECT Park Rifle Range
	10:00 start. No charge for the day.
Tuesday, 9 th October, 7.30 pm	Committee Night at NZDA Clubrooms
20 th – 23 rd (Labour Weekend)	Kaimanawa Road (Waipakahi)
	Target Species: Sika (level 3)
	Trip organiser: Chris Munro
28 th October – 5 th November	Mount Cook Thar Hunt
	Target Species: Thar
	Trip organiser: Stan Lowe
Sunday, 28 th October	NZDA Range Open Day at TECT Park Range

This calendar sponsered by Tree Wise Men

NZDA CALENDAR 2018

November	
Tuesday, 6 th November, 7.30 pm	Club Night at NZDA Clubrooms
Saturday, 10 th November	BOP Service Rifle Club Day
Tuesday, 13 th November, 7.30 pm	Committee Night at NZDA Clubrooms
18 th – 19 th November	Littles Clearing – Kaweka Target Species: sika (level 3) Trip organiser: Chris Munro
Sunday, 25 th November	NZDA Range Open Day at TECT Park Range
December	
Tuesday, 4 th December, 7.30 pm	Club Night at NZDA Clubrooms
Saturday, 8 th December	BOP Service Rifle Club Day
Sunday, 9 th December	BOP Deerstalkers Club Christmas Shoot at TECT Park Range Target Species: metal rabbits & ducks! (level 1) Details TBC
Tuesday, 11 th December, 7.30 pm	Committee Night at NZDA Clubrooms
Sunday, 30 th December	NZDA Range Open Day at TECT Park Range



Paul Adamson

DIP.HORT., ADV.CERT ARB

QUALIFIED ARBORIST

Mobile 0274 744 301

Phone / Fax 07 543 0950 PO Box 11134 Papamoa Tauranga

Additional Calendar information

Club Night starts at 7.30pm but doors open at 7.00pm so feel free to come along earlier for a catch up with your fellow hunters before the night officially starts!

Disclaimer: the dates, locations, and organisers of the hunts are subject to change. Where possible we will arange suitable alternatives but we are humans and we hunt in places that are affected by weather. We welcome you to become involved as a trip leader or to suggest other locations.

BOP Deerstalkers Trip Grading System						
Grade	Description	Specific skills	Specific Equipment			
1	Flat country, suitable for any ability	none	none			
2	Rolling country, suitable for most people	basic fitness	boots and a compass			
3	Local bush hunting, may involve overnight	navigation, fitness, basic bushcraft	boots, pack, tent or fly			
4	Extended hunting, may involve helicopters.	fitness, basic alpine skills, navigation	boots, pack, binoculars, rangefinder, spotting scope			
5	Extreme Hunting, alpine or dense bush	extreme fitness, alpine skills, navigation	boots, pack, binoculars, rangefinder, spotting scope, crampons, ice axe			

CLUB HUNTS - GETTING YOU THERE AND BACK SAFELY

Just a quick note to inform you all about a new system that we're trialing for our 2018 hunting calendar. Many of you were attendance when our NZDA President, Bill O'Leary, spoke at a club night in 2017. He informed us all about our obligations under the new H&S laws, so in order to help meet them we're going to be trialing a 'signup' system for all club hunts. We've also recognized that many of our hunts require a lot of organization (e.g. the Thar hunt) so this system will help everyone involved. Details for signup...

- All participants wanting to participate in a planned club hunt need to signup at a club night.
- Signup forms for various hunts will be set out on a dedicated 'hunts' table and hopefully the organisers will be there to have a yarn with you.
- This will help insure the hunt organisers get a chance to meet you before the hunt and where necessary they can make allowances/provide recommendations for things like equipment or access.
- As part of this you will need to supply contact info for an emergency contact and info about any safety equipment you'll be carrying.
- As well as making us more organized, we hope this will grow participation at our club nights and allow new members to form new contacts with experienced hunters.

If anyone has any questions or suggestion to help improve this process please contact Tim, or feel free to have a yarn with any of our committee members.



TAHR CULL REPORT



IMMEDIATE RELEASE 19 September 2018

Himalayan tahr culls an overreaction

DOC's proposal to kill 17,500 Himalayan tahr over the next 10 months is rushed, based on slender evidence, and could spell the demise of a unique and valuable trophy herd, says NZ Deerstalkers' Association spokesman Bill O'Leary.

"The numbers they want to start killing within the next fortnight have been set without a proper assessment of the situation, and there is no attempt to leave the most valuable animals – the bull tahr that can take 8 years to reach their trophy potential. More time needs to be spent setting terms and conditions for the cull rather than just rushing in and killing everything on sight without considering the consequences."

DOC's population estimate of 35,600 animals was largely based on controversial methods of assessing the numbers by pellet counts, he said. "There is no general agreement among game animal scientists as to the accuracy of this method, and DOC itself admits that its estimate has a margin of error of up to 9,000," he said. "We acknowledge that tahr numbers are above the level set in the 1993 Thar Plan, and some *carefully planned, highly selective* culling needs to be done – but better data and more detailed planning are needed rather than killing so many tahr with undue haste."

A herd of 10,000 tahr left after unselective culling would not be able to provide a sustainable harvest of trophies, he said. "At that level there would be about 5,000 male tahr left, of which only a fraction would be mature animals. To put that in perspective, at present hunting guides alone take about 1,500 trophy bulls per year and private shooters take at least as many again, while more are killed by helicopter hunters too. This adds up to over 3,000 a year – well over half of the available males including young as well as mature animals. At that rate the trophy value of the herd would vanish within a couple of years.

"There is nothing in the DOC proposal to enthuse me," said Mr O'Leary $\ensuremath{\mathsf{END}}$

For further information and interviews contact Bill O'Leary, 027 430 5008

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DOC to reduce tahr numbers to protect alpine plants

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is stepping up efforts to control Himalayan tahr across the central South Island as numbers have reached destructive levels.

Tahr graze at high altitudes in the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana where they feed most intensively on tall snow tussock and kill entire plants.

New monitoring data gathered over 18 months has highlighted the population is much higher than expected and the Minister of Conservation, Eugenie Sage has asked for it to be reduced urgently.

"It's estimated there are at least 35,600 tahr on public conservation land and that's 25,600 more than allowed under the Himalayan Thar Control Plan 1993 for the whole of the tahr range," says Eastern South Island Operations Director, Andy Roberts.

DOC is aiming to remove 10,000 tahr over the next ten months. Tahr control will take place on public conservation land including the Westland/Tai Poutini and Aoraki Mt Cook National Parks

"We will first be focusing on the Rakaia, Rangitata, Gammack and Two Thumb ranges where there are large numbers of tahr," says Andy Roberts.

DOC controls tahr by running aerial operations with professional DOC hunters in helicopters. DOC, recreational and commercial hunting groups have together been removing an average of about 4,600 tahr each year.

"This hasn't been enough to keep the population under control and we need to be doing more."

The Tahr Liaison Group (made up of organisations with hunting interests and conservation groups along with Ngāi Tahu), has been asked to assist DOC in bringing tahr numbers back to within the limits set in the Thar Control Plan by hunting an additional 7500 animals over the next seven and a half months.

"This joint effort to remove 17,500 animals will stabilize the current population. We will need to continue to increase our combined efforts over the next few years to reduce these numbers further."

DOC first raised concerns about tahr not being counted effectively in 2015. A new monitoring programme was launched with data gathered over 18 months. The result was the new estimate of 35,000 tahr across conservation land of the central South Island.

A new tahr webpage will assist hunters so they can make informed decisions on where they would like to go hunting. It will feature maps showing the locations of DOC aerial control operations and details on where tahr can be found.

Key facts and links:

- The Tahr Liaison Control Group is made up of organisations with hunting interests and conservation groups. Members include, NZ Deer Stalkers Association, Game Animal Council, Safari Club International, Professional Hunting Guides Association, Forest and Bird, Ngāi Tahu, LINZ, Wild Animal Recovery Operators, Federated Mountain Club, Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting and tahr farmers.
- DOC held a meeting with the Tahr Liaison Group in Christchurch on the 29 August.

/Users/clairemaisey/Library/Containers/com.apple.Preview/Data/Downloads/05 NZ Deerstalkers A4.jpg

- Following this meeting and feedback from the group letters have been sent out to members.
- Each group has been asked to remove a target number of tahr from Public Conservation Land before 30 April 2019.
- The target number of tahr for each of the stakeholder groups are:
 - 2,500 by the NZ Deerstalkers Association, Safari Club International, Game Animal Council and Tahr Interest Group
 - o 3,000 by the Wild Animal Recovery Operators
 - o 1,500+ by Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting concessionaires, using the offsets owed to DOC
 - o 500 by the Professional Hunting Guides Association.
 - 10,000 by DOC from all management units, excluding the two national parks.
- DOC will recommence tahr control work before 30 September.
- Thar Control Plan 1993: https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservation-publications/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/himalayan-thar-control-plan-1993/

Dropbox photos:

Tahr herds 2018: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ltggp4444a9y540/AADbxn6xek9YzfJO7gEFe4oVa?dl=0

The two examples below are photos of tahr plant damage. These photos were taken in the northern Otago river catchments in 2004 when the population was smaller than it is today.

Tahr damage to Mt Cook Lilly: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wtmix08j9icnall/AAABE4Woaam7MK6n_J9W6x-5a?dl=0

The photographs show what Mt Cook Lilly beds should look like as well as a series of photos showing damage caused by tahr. Tahr chew the plant to the ground before using their hoofs to expose the roots. After chewing the roots the area dries out and the plant dies.

Tahr damage to native broom: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wtmix08j9icnall/AAABE4Woaam7MK6n_J9W6x-5a?dl=0

These photos are an example of how tahr 'camp out' and destroy entire plants before moving on to the next location. The plants in these photos have been chewed by a herd of tahr.

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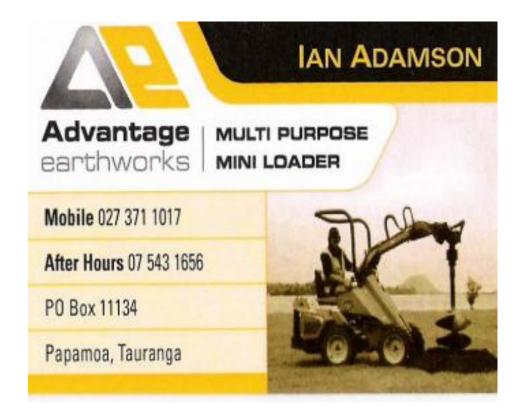




RANGE NEWS

Grant Hammond

NZDA BOP Branch Range Manager
Tauranga | New Zealand | 021 137 3831 | nzvarminter@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hey team! Spring is finally here and that means only one thing...time to get out on the hills and nail those yearlings that are getting kicked out of home. It's a great time of year, when the fresh new shoots encourage the deer out into the open so I hope you find some of these tasty treats to fill the freezer.

Right now I feel really positive about our club. We've had some great turnouts at the club nights recently and I've met a lot of new members who are simply itching to get out there. Reuben Hayward recently organized an impromptu 'hunts' meeting at the Judea Tavern and we had quite an impressive turnout. The two messages that came out of that meeting were that members wanted more local hunts so they could learn some spots, and they want a mix of day and weekend trips to suit their availability. A new hunts calendar is being drafted up so we hope to get those details out shortly.

Another interesting idea to come from the hunts meeting was that of a hunting competition. Many of you will have seen the success of competitions like the Big 4 and as a hunting club we thought, "why can't we do that?" I presented this idea to the committee and they were supportive, especially if it could be family friendly. In October I will be putting the call out for another informal meeting at the Judea Tav to start tossing around ideas so I would love to see you there...deer, pigs, goats, possums, rabbits, magpies, turkeys? On the next page over I have included a discussion document so put your thinking caps on and lets hear your ideas.

As always, aim straight, identify your target, and enjoy the best hunting the world has to offer.

Tim Taylor NZDA BOP branch Membership Secretary NZDA BOP branch Vice President. Ph) 027 668 9904.

BOP Deerstalkers Family Hunting Comp - discussion document

Potential Date: possibly 2nd weekend in May after the roar and duck shooting opening weekend? Other?

Potential Species: deer, pig, goat, possum, wallaby, rabbit, hare, magpie, duck, pheasant, eel, trout?

Participants:

- Emphasis on family (min one adult and one <18)
- Club members only or open to the public?

Format: briefing on Friday evening, weigh in on Sat and Sun. Prize giving Sunday evening? Other?

Prize Categories:

- Average weight for each animal
- Combined weight of each species for overall family prize
- Combined weight of each species for top adult and top junior
- Special prizes for adult and junior best Douglas score game animal
- Hard luck/dick of the day prizes
- Photo comp

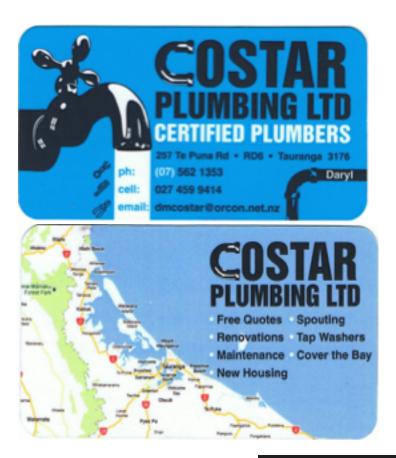
Sponsorship:

- Naming right sponsors
- Individual category sponsors
- Does any club member own/work for a company that might be keen to support?
- Does any club member have any contacts for suitable companies to approach?

Rules:

- Standard club rules
- Emphasis on presenting ethically killed animals e.g. animals that have obviously been chewed by dogs will not be accepted
- Emphasis on firearm safety, especially with unlicensed/junior hunters.
- All entrants turning up to the briefing?

Tim's note: all of the above are ideas. We need to get the discussion going as this comp will take a lot of work to organize and I'd like to see as many members entering as possible. Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved or have suggestions.





NOTICE BOARD

For Sale:

Two items from Mike as follows:

- 2013 CanAm Outlander Quad Bike (twin seat) \$6250.00 ONO
 400cc automatic with Hi/Low gearbox and 2 or 4 Wheel drive options
 - _low mileage (9,336 km)
- _regularly serviced at 100 engine hour intervals by Country Engineering and Off Road Motorcycles (Kerry Pask)
 - 2. Genuine Victor #1 leg-hold possum traps (500 available). Top quality steel made in USA \$12.50 each

If anyone is interested they can contact Mike on the telephone numbers below to view or discuss prices.

Michael Thame H:07 576 5087 M:027 338 2582

For Sale; "Tree Stand suitable for white tail hunting etc. Bolt together aluminium angle frame with foam & plywood seat & foot rest complete with tie downs to connect to tree etc. Camo paint job. Manufactured by myself based on a tried & tested design. Un-used due to unforeseen circumstances. \$300 ono. Phone Jon Short on 021 0274 7354, Tauranga."

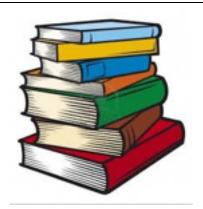
For Sale:

Rifle, Marlin XL7, bolt action, 5 shot internal mag, hardly used, comes with scope & supressor \$1200 o.n.o. Contact Anna on 021 225 5417. Buyer must have valid gun licence.

NOTE: if you have something to buy or sell please let the editor know. Similarly, if you advertise something for sale, and then sell it, please let your editor know so your advert can be removed...

DEERSTALKERS LIBRARY

Don't forget the library is open for Club members to borrow books and DVDs. See Richard McEwen on club nights between 7.15 – 7.30pm





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BOP BRANCH PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS (PLB's) FOR HIRE

Available to Branch members for hire. These devices can save lives by drastically reducing Search and Rescue times.

Members will need to:

- 1. Book the units in advance.
- 2. Be a current member and show their membership card when picking them up.
- 3. Fill in an Outdoors Intention Form to be held by the Branch custodian issuing the unit.
- 4. Pay a \$40 cash bond, refundable on return, in original condition and on time.
- 5. Pay a \$10-20 donation per trip, on return, for hire of the unit.

Hire will be on a per trip basis, based on a maximum of a 21 day trip. The units will not be insured because of the cost, so any damage or loss will be payable by the user (approx. \$640). There is no cost for the renewal of the unit if it is used in an emergency

but if possible we will need it returned. Any costs incurred for rescue by emergency services or false PLB activation will be the sole responsibility of the user.

Branch PLB Custodians:

- Dean Maisey, Welcome Bay, Ph. 544 2207
- Keith Theobald, Greerton, Ph. 578 1195
- Baden Prentice, Bethlehem, Ph. 579 3107 (pick up can also be made from Newton St, Mt Maunganui by prior arrangement)



HUNTING SAFETY GUIDELINES

Hunting Safety Guidelines (Some suggestions from committee discussions)

- 1. It is recommended that hunters wear Hi-Viz clothing at all times while in the hunting block.
- 2. Alcohol may only be consumed after the days hunting is completed.
- 3. Illicit drugs will not be tolerated.
- 4. Only load your weapon when ready to shoot at your quarry.
- 5. Identify your target beyond any doubt.
- 6. Check the firing zone for people, non-target stock, buildings etc.
- 7. Never fire above the skyline.
- 8. Unload your weapon with the barrel pointing away from any potential hazards.
- 9. Never skylark with weapons.

Application for Membership of the Bay of Plenty Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Inc.) 2017/2018

To

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Inc) Bay of Plenty Branch P O Box 3111 Greerton Tauranga 3142



Dear Treasurer,

I am applying for membership of the Bay of Plenty Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association for the 2017/18 year (March 1st 2017– February 28th 2018).

My details are as follows: (Please print in capitals)

Surname:	Given Name/s:				
Address:		Suburb:			
City/Town:		Post Code:			
Telephone:		Cell phone:			
Email:		Newsletter By: Post □ Email □			
Occupation:					
Family Members: (please see over page for more information)	Name: Name: Name:	DOB: DOB: DOB: DOB:			
Date of Birth if Junior or Superannuant	/	Junior less than 18 as at 1 March 2017. Superannuitant over 65 as at 1 March 2017.			

Membership benefits:

- NZDA \$10 Million Liability Insurance Cover, including \$1 million rural fires extension.
- NZDA working to protect your hunting interests.
- NZ Hunting & Wildlife magazine (except for affiliates or associates; 1 copy per family).
- Club newsletter monthly.
- Club nights with guest speakers, organized branch hunting trips.
- **HUNTS** courses.

Information for Applicants:

Club Meetings are 7:30 PM first Tuesday of every month at the Tauriko Clubrooms, R617 SH 29. Contact the Membership Secretary, Bob Tatton 07 571 8442 or email membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz for further information

All new Applications are put before the Committee, at their next available meeting, for acceptance – please allow up to 6 weeks for receipt of your membership card.

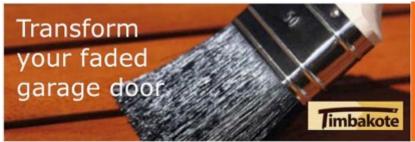
The membership type I am applying for is:		Period Joined			(Circle one)		
FEES – Branch financial year runs from March 1 st 2016 to February 28 th 2017		*Joining Fee		Full Yr Mar – Aug		1/2 Yr Sep – Feb	
SENIOR – Full benefits at National and Branch level.		\$50.00		\$110.00		\$59.00	
FAMILY MEMBER – partner/spouse or children/ grandchildren of Senior Member under 18 as at March 1 st 2016		\$0.00		\$2.00		\$1.00	
JUNIOR – Must be less than 18 years of age as at March 1 st 2016 (No voting rights).		\$0.00		\$37.50		\$22.75	
ASSOCIATE – Can't vote or enter national competitions. Doesn't receive H&W mag		\$50.00		\$67.00		\$37.50	
AFFILIATE – Must be a full member of another branch.		\$50.00		\$50.00		\$29.00	
SUPERANNUANT – over 65 as at 1 March 2016		\$50.00		\$85.00		\$46.50	
STUDENT – Must produce valid Student ID card as proof.		\$50.00		\$85.00		\$46.50	
* Joining Fee only applies to NEW and members UNFINANCIAL for more than 90 days (i.e.: Existing membership must be renewed before 31 May 2017)		Memb	nip Fee \$				
OPTIONAL PAYMENTS: Annual Range Ticket (Mar-Feb each yr – \$50 see separate info pack)		Range ticket			\$		
Donation towards ongoing development of the Shooting Range		Donation Total Pa			\$ \$		
Please find enclosed my payment for my application to Bay of Plenty Branch. Cheque Cash Direct Credit Account Name: Bank Account No: Reference: NZDA- BOP Branch 030445-0184375-00 Enter your surname * In all instances this application form must be filled out in full and posted to: New Zealand Deerstalkers Association B.O.P Branch, P O Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga, 3142 Under the terms of the Privacy Act 1993, I acknowledge that you are retaining my name and club details for the purpose of mailing further information on NZDA and related matters.							
Signature: Date:							

CODE OF ETHICS

A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his act they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact. Aldo Leopold, The Sand County Almanac.

A member of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Incorporated will be expected to:

- 1. Approach recreational hunting from the highest possible level of ethics, having due regard to the welfare of the animals hunted, and prevention of cruelty to the same
- 2. Not hunt or carry a firearm on property without the proper approval of the owner, occupier of controlling authority and shall strictly observe any conditions imposed upon him
- 3. Be a responsible firearms owner and abide by current Firearms Laws
- 4. Avoid unnecessary or deliberate damage to the environment, respect property, and other users of the outdoors
- 5. Advocate sensible conservation practices at all times and promote New Zealand's biodiversity 'in situ'
- 6. Practice the Field Guidelines when out hunting
- 7. Be exemplary members of NZDA by promoting and abiding by its Rules, Field Guidelines and this Code of Ethics.



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Bob Tatton 07 571 8442 Chris Fryer 07 576 5994

Chris Munro <u>chris@versatileproducts.co.nz</u>

Clyde Rogers 021 1645 370

Dave Bragg <u>davonne09@xtra.co.nz</u>

Dave Taylor 07 552 5979

Dean Maisey <u>dean@gunsmith.co.nz</u>

Doug Williams 027 494 5966

Grant Hammond <u>nzvarminter@gmail.com</u> (021 137 3831)

 Jon Stewart
 07 543 4799

 John Jefferson
 552 4846

Keith Theobald <u>keiththeobald@xtra.co.nz</u>

Noel Monger 021 470 171

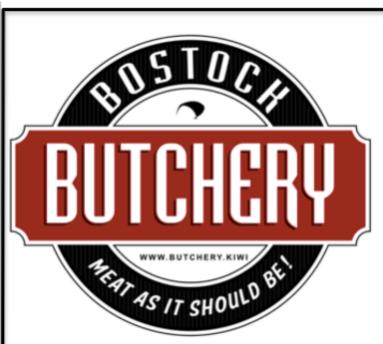
Paul Hill pandlhill@ihug.co.nz

Richard McEwen <u>richard.feb@gmail.com</u> / 021 138 2483

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